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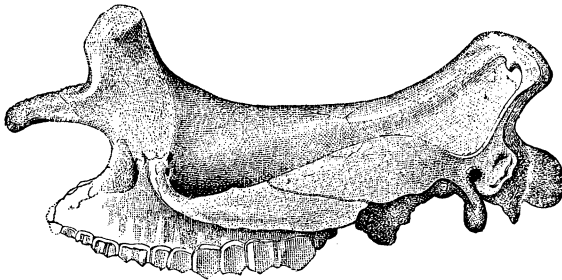
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and customs. Many remains of Roman edifices, some of them crowned with Byzantine structures, were found. The full account is in a Blue Book, just issued, of consular reports to the Foreign Office, London.

Dr. Hooker is in receipt of a private letter describing the warlike habits of the Papuans. No man leaves his dwelling for his bit of cultivated land, even, without his powerful bamboo bow and a few deadly poisoned arrows. These are pointed and barbed with human bone, brought to almost needle-like sharpness, and most carefully and neatly finished. They are poisoned by being plunged in a human corpse for several days.  
— O. T. MASON.

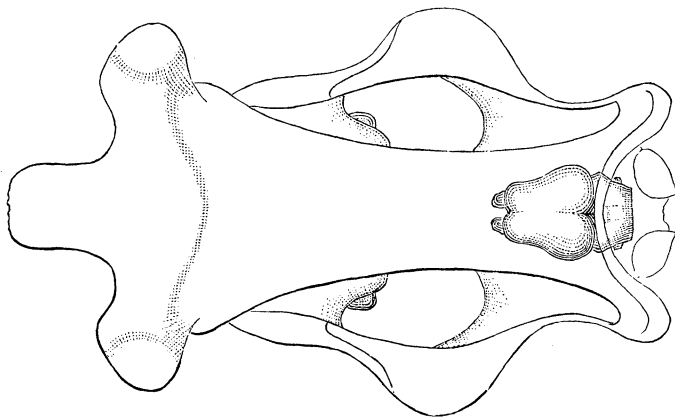
### GEOLOGY AND PALÆONTOLOGY.

GIGANTIC MAMMALS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS. — We have already (page 182) called attention to Professor Marsh's discovery of the remarkably small brain of the *Dinocerata*, a group of large tertiary



(Fig. 19.) SKULL OF BRONTOTHERIUM INGENS.  
Side view; one twelfth natural size.

mammals of the West. In the *American Journal of Science and Arts* for April, he discusses the principal characters of the *Brontotheridæ*,



(Fig. 20.) OUTLINE OF SKULL AND BRAIN CAVITY OF BRONTOTHERIUM INGENS.  
Top view; one tenth natural size.

which were mammals nearly equaling the elephant in size, but with shorter limbs, and with a flexible nose as in the tapir, but no true proboscis. They lived in the lake basins of Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Colorado in the early Miocene Tertiary period. Figure 19 represents a side view of the skull of *Brontotherium ingens* Marsh, one twelfth of the natural size, and Figure 20 is an outline of the skull and brain cavity of the same animal, one tenth of its natural size, showing the remarkably small size of the brain. On the plates are views of different parts of the skeleton and of casts of the brain cavity.

### GEOGRAPHY AND EXPLORATION.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO UNITE THE BLACK SEA AND THE CASPIAN? — Major Wood answers this question in the affirmative in the *Geographical Magazine* for February. He says that though the present level of the Caspian Sea is about eighty-four feet below the ocean level, it must be remembered that the highest point in the Manytch Channel, connecting the Euxine and Caspian basins, is but twenty-four feet above ocean level. "Manifestly, therefore, if these twenty-four feet were cut through, the waters of the Sea of Azof would pass into the Caspian basin and fill it up. Nor would such an enterprise present the shadow of a difficulty to the engineering genius which has already brought into being the great excavators that were used on the Suez Canal.

"The result of the filling up of the Caspian basin would be the destruction of Astrakhan and of all other buildings situated below ocean level on the Caspian littoral, and the project therefore would not appear at first sight to be a desirable one." Its execution would increase the water-spread of the Caspian from an area of 140,000 square miles to one of 250,000 square miles, and provide an ocean route to the eastern shore of the Caspian, and thus aid in developing the civilization of Central Asia.

ANCIENT GEOGRAPHERS. — It is not too much to assert, says a writer in the *Geographical Magazine*, that all the geographical achievements of the age, stupendous as they are, have been virtually nothing more than a grand and successful filling-in of the vague outlines bequeathed to us by the past. The Suez Canal was the idea of Pharaoh-Necho; the establishing of a beaten track across the Isthmus of Panama, that of Cortez and Nuñez de Balboa; the Mont Cenis passage, that of Hannibal; the commercial highway across Central Asia, that of Alexander the Great; the diverting of the Oxus into another channel (which, however, is scarcely possible now), that of Octai Khan; the voyage eastward round the cape, that of Xerxes; the search for the source of the Nile, that of half a dozen Egyptian kings, as well as of their conqueror, Cambyses, centuries before the Christian era; the existence of great inland seas in South Africa, that of the Portuguese explorers of the sixteenth